

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an image forming apparatus of the present invention, during the image forming operation, the completion of development by one of development cartridges is followed by the rotation of a rotary for setting the next development cartridge to a development position. The rotational speed  $v$  of the rotary for this is increased linearly to the maximum speed  $v_{\max}$  and, after that, is decreased linearly to stop the rotary when the next development cartridge reaches the development position. During the replacement of the development cartridge in the non-image forming operation, the rotary is rotated to set the development cartridge to be replaced to the replacement position. The rotational speed of the rotary for this is set to be a constant speed  $v_1$  in a region other than a contact region where an input gear of the development side is in contact with a driving gear of the fixed side and a speed lower than the speed  $v_1$  in the contact region (the minimum speed  $v_2$ ). Therefore, the impact during collision between the input gear of the development unit and the development unit driving gear according to the rotation of the rotary in the non-image forming operation can be effectively reduced and the time required for rotation of the rotary in the non-image forming operation can be shortened.